



## western chorus frog

*Pseudacris triseriata*

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Amphibia
Order:	Anura
Family:	Hylidae

### Features

The western chorus frog ranges from three-fourths to 1 1/4 inches long. It has three, broad, dark stripes down the back and a dark stripe that runs from the snout to the groin and passes through the eye. A dark triangle or other dark coloring may be present between the eyes. A light line is found along the upper lip. The body color is gray, brown, green, or olive. The western chorus frog is among Iowa's smallest frogs. It is one of the first frogs to call in the spring, along with the spring peeper.

### Natural History

The western chorus frog lives in prairie marshes, pasture ponds, floodplains, and urban wetlands. It eats small arthropods (spiders, insects, mites, etc.). It is seldom seen after breeding season. It breeds March through May, often in temporary ponds. The male's call is "creek" or "preep" which can be imitated by running a finger across the teeth of a comb. The female deposits about 100 eggs in clusters that are

attached to objects in the water. Each female may deposit a total of 500 to 1,500 eggs. Eggs hatch in a few days. The tadpoles transform to froglets in May and June.

### Habitats

natural lakes and prairie marshes; interior rivers and streams; Mississippi River; Missouri River; wet prairies and fens; temporary water supplies; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

### Iowa Status

common; native

### Iowa Range

statewide

### Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.